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Remarks:

Regarding the rejection of claims 16-20 under 35 USC 112:

It is believed that the amendments to claims 16-19 fully address and overcome the Examiner's grounds of rejection. Reconsideration of the propriety of the rejection, and its withdrawal, is solicited.

Regarding the rejection of claims 1, 4-5, 7-8, 15-18 under 35 USC 103(a) in view of US 2004/0063601 to DeNome (hereinafter DeNome '601):

The applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of the foregoing claims in view of the DeNome '601 reference.

A key basis for the Examiner's rejection is found in the following statement made in the prior *Office Action*, wherein the Examiner contends:

DeNome '601 teaches a doseable liquid gel anhydrous organic solvent composition, suitable for dishwashing, which comprises sodium tripolyphosphate hexahydrate and water-soluble dyes (see paragraph [0002] and [0010] on page 1). The anhydrous organic solvent composition comprises an organic solvent composition (wherein "solvent composition" is understood to comprise the organic solvent system and optional additional active ingredients and diluents) and one or more automatic dishwashing detergent compositions (see paragraph [0036] on pages 3-4). The organic solvent is present at any suitable amount, and is typically present at levels from about 10% to about 80% by weight of the total composition (see paragraph [0039] on page 4). Examples of suitable solvents include (i) alcohols; (ii) amines such as alkanolamines; (iii) esters; (iv) glycol ethers; (v) glycols; and mixtures thereof (see paragraph [0043] on page 4). The organic solvent system is preferably selected from (i) glycol ethers such as

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ethylene glycol monomethyl ether, propylene glycol butyl ether, among a few; and (ii) glycols; and mixtures thereof (see paragraph [0044] on page 4). The effective amount of water, preferably deionized water, in the anhydrous organic solvent composition is determined by the amount of hydrated builder species to be generated, generally from about 5 to about 10% (underlinings supplied, see paragraphs [0058-0059] on page

From this foregoing statement, the Examiner then assumes that the Denome'601 product and article render the applicant's claimed invention as obvious. The applicant disagrees.

The first time at the outset it is asserted that he currently claimed embodiment of the applicant's invention is directed towards any liquid composition, which is clearly flowable within the interior of the water soluble container within which it is presented, as opposed to the thickened gels which are necessarily the result of the process taught by Denome'601. Thus, while the recitation of the amount of "water" cited by Denome'601 might initially appear to be relevant to the amounts currently claimed by the Pres. applicant, a more careful reading of Denome'601 in inevitably you leads the reader to understand that that in all instances and embodiments, there is no "free water" present in the Denome'601 and does it is highly viscous or a gelled, as is further confirmed by the necessity of the inclusion of a thickener constituents. Such thickener constituents are not necessarily present, nor indeed all are exemplified in any of the current applicants examples of the their invention.

With regard now to the actual teaching provide by Denome'601, it is clear from a careful reading of that prior art document to that great pains are taken in the process to ensure that within that composition, there is absolutely no excess water present, and that the only water present in the composition is that required to hydrate the STTP. This is clearly stated by Denome'601 in the following passages excerpted from his published patent application:

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storage. Not to be limited by theory, it is thought that the swelling is due to moisture uptake by the anhydrous solvent composition via mass transport through the pouch. Consequently, as water-soluble pouches become swollen they become tight to the touch. Their overall appearance and feel is not appealing to consumers. Thus, there is still the need for a method of manufacturing dosable liquid gel anhydrous organic solvent compositions for cleaning cookware and tableware in automatic dishwashing applications that avoids high yield values and the associated excessive pouch swelling when the compositions are packaged in water-soluble pouches.

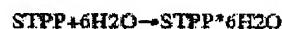
[0007] It was surprisingly found that the critical step in avoiding excessive pouch swelling is in the way in which the solids are hydrated during manufacturing process. If the solids are allowed to dissolve, prior to hydration, they tend to re-crystallize during hydration. The net result is that the yield value of the gel-phase is significantly increased when re-crystallization occurs. XRD analytical data suggests that when hydration is completed in "in-situ" conditions (i.e. water added to the batch as outlined in the order of addition of the examples) the free water tends to bind to the carbonate instead of the phosphate. Consequently, it is believed that re-crystallization is decreased. The order of addition of the method of manufacture of the present invention results in lower yield values of products.

Whereas the foregoing outlines the technical problem and the "surprising" finding of Denome' 601, the actual manner of making the gel product provides more revealing insights:

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[0021] Preparation of Example 1

[0022] The first step in this method for manufacture is a pre-hydration step. Water and sodium tripolyphosphate are mixed together in a mix tank to hydrate the STPP and form a hydrated intermediate powder. The amount of water to be added is determined by using the following chemical equation:



[0023] In this case, initially 22.37% STPP is added to a mix tank. The percentage of water can be calculated using the molecular weights of STPP (367.86 g/mol) and water (18 g/mol) in the equation above. The total percentage of water theoretically needed to convert the STPP to 100% $\text{STPP}\cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ is calculated to be about 6.57%. The percentage of water required will depend on whether additional water sources are added to the composition. For example, a stock solution that comprises less than 100% actives will generally provide additional water that must be accounted for in the equation.

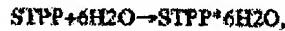
Such a recitation is consistent with the following more general recitation of the exact process steps needed to be followed according to Denome'601 which are recited in the following:

[0034] In one non-limiting embodiment of the present invention, a method for manufacturing an organic solvent composition for use in automatic dishwashing, the order of addition for the method for manufacturing comprises the steps of: (a) providing an effective amount of sodium tripolyphosphate (STPP); (b) mixing said STPP and water in a mixer to form a hydrated intermediate powder comprising $\text{STPP}\cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ such that the phosphate in said hydrated intermediate powder is at least 30% hydrated by weight; (c) providing an effective amount of said hydrated intermediate powder; (d) providing an effective amount of at least one organic solvent; (e) mixing said component(s) of step (d) in

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a mix tank to form said organic solvent system; (f) optionally, providing and adding an effective amount of an adjunct ingredient; (g) adding said hydrated intermediate powder and said optional adjunct ingredients to said organic solvent system together in a dispersion mill mix tank for mixing; (h) recirculating the components in said dispersion mix tank through a mill until the particle size of all the solids has been reduced to between about 10 and about 70 microns as measured using a Hegman Gauge; (i) providing and adding an effective amount of a water-soluble dye selected from the group consisting of azo dye, stilbene dye, phthalocyanine dye, triphenodioxazine dye, formazan dye, anthraquinone dye, and mixtures thereof; (j) providing and adding an effective amount of a thickener to said components once said particle size of said solids have been reduced; (k) mixing and recirculating said components until said thickener and said water-soluble dye is fully dispersed; (l) allowing said composition to thicken; (m) stopping the recirculation of said dispersion mill; (n) optionally measuring the yield value of a sample of said anhydrous organic solvent composition to ensure that the yield value of said anhydrous organic solvent composition has a range of from about 10 to about 20 Pa; and (o) pouring or dosing said composition in a container;

[0035] wherein said effective amount of water is calculated by the following formula:



[0036] and wherein said composition is in the form of a liquid gel.

It is important to note that in the above recitation of steps, Denome'601 clearly requires both of that the (i) amount of water is specifically controlled in order to ensure that at least partial hydration of the sodium tripolyphosphate occurs, and also that (ii) as a necessary process step that there is added to the Denome'601 composition and a thickener constituent.

With regard to this latter requirement, such as reiterated it later in Denome'601 where his recited that such is indeed an essential constituent, as reported in the following excerpt:

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[0070] Thickener

[0071] The anhydrous organic solvent composition comprises a thickener at any suitable amount. The thickener is typically present at a level from about 0.1% to about 0.7% by weight of the total composition.

As has been noted previously, such a thickener constituent is not required of the presently claimed invention.

Returning now to the former important characteristic limitation of Denome'601, lay me that of the amount of water which is added during the process steps, it is quite clear that in all instances, the amount of water which is included in the composition is to be particularly calculated as being, at most, the amount of water which would hydrate the STTP constituent presence. This is readily understood from the following excerpted passages out of Denome'601:

[0057] Effective Amount of Water

[0058] The effective amount of water, preferably deionized water, in the anhydrous organic solvent composition of the present invention is determined by the amount of

hydrated builder species to be generated. The uptake of moisture through the water-soluble pouch containing the anhydrous organic solvent composition is related to the amount of water present in the composition itself. For example, anhydrous solvent compositions generally exhibit a higher uptake of moisture than aqueous solvent compositions in water-soluble pouches. Without being bound by any particular theory, it is believed that water transportation through the pouch wall can be driven by a high gradient due to the presence of the source of alkalinity (e.g. carbonate).

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[0059] For example, the effective amount of water for the phosphate builder, STPP, is calculated by the following chemical equation: $STPP + 6H_2O \rightarrow STPP \cdot 6H_2O$, wherein the "STPP · 6H₂O" represents sodium tripolyphosphate hexahydrate. For example, if the composition contains 22.37% STPP, the total amount of water needed to convert the STPP to 100% STPP · 6H₂O is 6.57%. Note that some water will come from the stock material. If the stock material is 20% active, then 2.96% water is derived from the stock material alone. The balance 3.61% water will be added to the composition to deliver a product yield value of from about 5 to about 10, generally about 7.

It is quite clear that key features of the Denome'601 specification are both the (a) order of the process steps practiced, as well as the (b) control of the water which is ultimately present within the Denome'601 gel product. Denome'601 warns against any deviation from his outlined process steps, including any change in the order of addition of the specific constituents, *inter alia*, in the following excerpted passage:

[0032] Not to be bound by theory, it has been surprisingly found that the same components when prepared in a different order will lead to a product with an unacceptable yield value. For example, if the liquid materials are first mixed together in a mix tank and then the dry materials are subsequently added to the liquid mixture to form an agglomerate. The resulting agglomerate is then recirculated in a dispersion mill mix tank (Union Process Q-Attritor or IKA's Dispax Reactor DRS2000) to reduce the particle size of all the solids to between about 10 and about 70 microns as measured using a Hegman Gauge. After the particle size outlined above is met, the Methocel OS is then added to the dispersion tank and the mix is recirculated through the mill to fully disperse the material. The remaining materials (i.e. adjunct

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material) are added to the dispersion tank and recirculated to ensure uniform mixing to finish the product. The composition is allowed to thicken and the recirculation is stopped. The yield value of the resulting composition will be greater than 100 Ps. The finished product will be more a solid than a gel and cannot be easily poured or dosed into a pouching mold or out of a bottle.

Indeed, Denome'601 also cautions that the presence of any amount of water in excess of that specifically required only to hydrate the STTP leads to undesirable "solidification" of the gel product, as is evident from her reading from the following excerpted passage:

[0033] It has also been surprisingly found that even if the method and order of addition is followed as outlined in Example 1, but that a greater amount of water is added to the components than is needed to convert the STPP to 100% STPP*6H₂O according to the equation, then the yield value of the resulting batch will be greater than 100 Pa. The finished product will be more a solid than a gel and cannot be easily poured or dosed into a pouching mold or out of a bottle.

From the foregoing, it is believed to be then made quite clear that a proper reading of the Denome'601 reference leads to the inescapable conclusion that the amount of water is necessarily, very carefully controlled, and takes into account not only the water added during the process/production steps outlined by Denome'601, but necessarily also needs to take into account the amount of water which may be transmitted via the enclosing water soluble film such that, the presence of any excess of water is avoided, as, any such "excess" of water would only lead to a further solidified the gel product -- and in no way would lead to a flowable liquid present within the interior of the water-soluble "pouch" provided as part of the Denome'601 product. Such is confirmed by a review of the sole example provided by Denome'601 which is as follows:

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EXAMPLE 1

Material	Weight %
<u>Hydrated Intermediate Powder</u>	
STPP	22.37
DI Water	3.61
<u>Finished Product</u>	
Dipropylene Glycol	38.38
SLE-18	4.63
C14 Amine Oxide	3.70
DI Water	0.00
G100 Sodium Carbonate	21.80
Hydrated Intermediate Powder	25.98
Britesil H20	1.41
RHT	0.00
Methocel OS Thickener	0.20
Sodium Perborate Monohydrate	0.00
LiquiBtu 4 Perfume	0.16
Direct Blue 86 Soln	0.14
FN3 Enzyme Slurry	1.60
Natalase Enzyme Pill	2.00
TOTAL	100.00

As can be readily discerned from the foregoing recitation of constituents, it is quite clear that the total amount of "water" is 3.61%, but in view of the cumulative teaching provided in Denome'601 and discussed in detail *supra*, it would be clear to the skilled artisan and that there is no "free water" but only "bound water", that is to say all available water molecules would be bound to the STPP as hydrated water, and would no longer function as any type of any "liquid carrier". This fact, coupled with the amounts out of the "Methocel OS Thickener" clearly indicates that a gel type product, containing no "free water" would be formed and as such, this gel type product would be differentiate on, and non-obvious to the applicants currently claimed compositions. Inherently, applicants currently claimed compositions, which include no require thickener constituent but which include at least 7.5%wt. water would be inherently a flowable liquid and that such at least 7.5%wt. water would be "free water" which would function as a liquid carrier. With regard to the consideration of the addition of further water to the Denome'601 compositions, for the reasons also discussed in detail *supra*, such as clearly

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proscribed by Denome'601 as inevitably only leading to a more dense gel which is undesired from a consumer perspective as well as a technical perspective. Thus, nothing in the Denome'601 can be considered as suggesting the inclusion of further water but rather, Denome'601 clearly "teaches away" from such a consideration.

The Examiner is respectfully reminded that with regard to any rejection based on obviousness under 35 USC §103(b), MPEP section 2143 states that three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, not in applicant's disclosure. See, *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991); *In re Rouffet*, 149 F.3d 1350, 1355-56 [47 USPQ2d 1453] (Fed. Cir. 1998). But see also *KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc.*, 82 USPQ2d 1385 (U.S. 2007)

The Examiner is also respectfully reminded that it is impermissible under the law to "pick and choose" amongst related elements of the prior art in order to piece together the applicant's claimed invention. For example, in *In re Fritch*, 972 F.2d 1260, 1266, 23 USPQ2d 1780, 1784 (Fed. Cir. 1992), the Federal Circuit stated:

"It is impermissible to use the claimed invention as an instruction manual or "template" to piece together the teachings of the prior art so that the claimed invention is rendered obvious. *In re Gorman*, 933 F.2d 982, 987, 18 USPQ2d 1885, 1888 (Fed. Cir. 1991). This court has previously stated that "[o]ne cannot use hindsight reconstruction to pick and choose among isolated disclosures in the prior art to deprecate the claimed invention." (quoting *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d at 1075, 5 USPQ2d at 1600)

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In view of the foregoing remarks which clearly distinguish DeNome '601, reconsideration of the propriety of the rejection of the indicated claims in view of the DeNome '601 reference, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Regarding the rejection of claims 10-12, 19 and 20 under 35 USC 103(a) in view of US 2004/0063601 to DeNome (hereinafter DeNome '601), further in view of US 5958858 to Bettoli (hereinafter simply "Bettoli"):

The applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of the indicated claims and view the combined DeNome '601 and Bettoli references.

For the sake of brevity, the applicant here and repeats and incorporates by reference to prior remarks made with respect to the purported relevance of the DeNome reference.

The Examiner's rejection states:

It is known from Bettoli to incorporate alkoxylated quaternary ammonium surfactant compounds (see col. 13, lines 34-38) and alkylpolyglycoside nonionic surfactants (see col. 11, lines 50+) into a similar liquid dishwashing composition (see col. 43, lines 49-50).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate alkoxylated quaternary ammonium surfactant and alkylpolyglycoside surfactant into the composition of DeNome '601 because DeNome '601 specifically desires cationic surfactants and nonionic surfactants into his composition and Bettoli teaches such suitable surfactants in an analogous art.

Turning now to the Bettoli document, the compositions of the that prior invention are necessarily directed to a detergent composition which includes; (a) 0.1 -20%wt. of a dianionic cleaning agent comprising a structural skeleton of at least five carbon atoms, having at least one anionic substituent group which is a sulfate group and at least one

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further anionic substituent group which is selected from a sulfate group or a sulfonate group; (b) 0.1 – 50%wt. of a nonionic surfactant; (c) in total, less than about 20%wt. of anionic surfactants; (d) optionally from about 0.1% to about 50% anionic surfactants, and (e) from about 0.1 to about 99.8%wt. of detergent composition adjunct ingredients; were in the ratio of the anionic surfactants to nonionic surfactants plus any optional co-surfactants is from about 1:1 to about 1:10. The presence of an alkoxylated quaternary ammonium surfactant is not a necessary constituent to Bettiol's compositions.

While the Examiner has indicated that the relevance of the Bettiol document is the alleged teaching that the incorporation of alkyl polyglycoside nonionic surfactants with alkoxylated quaternary ammonium surfactant is suggested, the applicant point out that even if a alkoxylated quaternary ammonium surfactant were considered in conjunction with the Denome'601 gel composition, such what not alter the essential characteristics out of the Denome'601 gel composition and it would still remain, at best, a thickened gel composition and would not contain any sufficient amount of "free water" to render the composition other than a thickened gel. Furthermore, there is nothing within the four corners of the Bettiol reference which teaches utility of the specific combinations of these surfactants, and the expectation that they would not unduly degrade or react with the water-soluble or water dispersible film pouch or container if so formulated.

As such, it is not believe that the Examiner's recitation of the combined Denome'601 and Bettiol references renders the applicant's currently claimed invention as obvious. Accordingly, reconsideration of the propriety of the rejection of the indicated claims, and its withdrawal, is respectfully requested

Regarding the rejection of claims 13-14 under 35 USC 103(a) in view of US 2004/0063601 to DeNome (hereinafter DeNome'601), further in view of US 5958858 to Bettiol (hereinafter simply "Bettiol"):

The applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of the indicated claims and view the combined Denome'601 and Bettiol references.

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For the sake of brevity, the applicant here and repeats and incorporates by reference to prior remarks made with respect to the purported relevance of the Denome'601 reference.

The basis of the instant grounds of rejection are as follows:

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to prepare the water-soluble PVA pouch of Denome '601 by injection moulding because Denome '601 desires water-soluble PVA pouch materials of known construction and type as disclosed in paragraph [0134], and DeNoms '931 provides such water-soluble pouches prepared by known methods such as injection moulding.

The applicants traverse this ground to rejection lodged by the Examiner due to the fact that, simply stated, there is nothing in the Bettiol reference concerning its recitation of water soluble polymers which addresses, or overcomes the inherent shortcomings out of the Denome'601 compositions. At best, any proper consideration of Denome'601 and Bettiol might it best suggest alternate water-soluble polymers that might be used with the Denome'601 compositions but, consideration of Bettiol does not address or provide any teaching her suggestion whereby the technical shortcomings of the Denome'601 gel compositions discussed *supra*, may be addressed or overcome. It is the applicants view then, that the Examiner's consideration of the Denome'601 and Bettiol references is improper and should properly be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing remarks, reconsideration of the rejections raised by the Examiner is respectfully requested, and early issuance of a *Notice of Allowance* is solicited. Should the Examiner in charge of this application believe that telephonic communication with the undersigned representative would meaningfully advance the prosecution of this application towards allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at their earliest convenience.

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PETITION FOR A TWO-MONTH EXTENSION OF TIME

The applicants respectfully petition for a two-month extension of time in order to permit for the timely entry of this paper. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 14-1263 with respect to this petition.

CONDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION FOR FEES

Should any further fee be required by the Commissioner in order to permit the timely entry of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any such fee to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

Respectfully Submitted:

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26 Jan 2009

Date:

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Enclosure – Request for Continued Examination

CERTIFICATE OF TELEFAX TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

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